

In the Specification

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.125, a clean, substitute specification is filed as part of this Response. A marked up version of the specification is also filed as an attachment hereto.

In the Drawings

Amendments to Figures 4, 6, and 8 are shown in red in the attached figures.

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending. Claims 1-3 stand rejected. Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Amendments to the Specification

A substitute specification has been filed in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.125. Please replace the current specification with the attached substitute specification.

Many of the amendments are clearly grammatical in nature. The balance of the remainder of the amendments reflect changes to provide internally consistency terminology. Additionally, the section in the specification entitled Summary of the Invention has been amended to reflect claim amendments presented herein.

No new matter has been added.

Amendments to the Drawings.

Figures 4, 6, and 8 have been amended to conform terminology used in the figures with terminology used in the Figures.

No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,167,378 issued to Webber, Jr. (referred to as *Webber*). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Webber discloses a method and system that provides for digital automation of a transaction space. More specifically, *Webber* states that the “system may operate advantageously as a private or an Internet Service Provider (ISP).” *Webber* col. 6, lns. 17-19. “The computers of the parties are connected by modem to the communications and activity platform (“CAP”) or by other means.” *Webber* col. 6, lns. 19-21. *Webber* further discloses that a system is provided “for digital automation of supply chains, each of the supply chains having a plurality of transactions between a plurality of parties including a buyer, a seller and a supplier, including at least one transaction between the buyer and the seller, and a transaction between the seller and the supplier.” *Webber* col. 5, lns. 29-36.

Webber mentions multiple fulfillment obligations in the context of “generating multiple fulfillment obligations within one entity.” *Webber* col. 10, lns. 4-7. “[M]ultiple purchase orders from a single customer may be identified and merged by the CAP in order to consolidate shipments from one supplier.” *Webber* col. 10, lns. 43-45. However, in contrast to the present invention of amended claim 1, *Webber* neither teaches nor suggests “routing order requests to multiple order request management systems (“ORMSs”) of fulfillment partners and integrating respective ORMS data from ORMSs of each fulfillment partner.” *Webber* teaches utilizing his invention in conjunction with a serially organized supply chain as illustrated in Figures 5-8. More specifically, *Webber* in his example in col. 12, lns. 53-54 refers to “the fulfillment company” and further states in col. 20, lns. 17-21 that, “[i]f the goods or services are not immediately available, the request will remain stored until such time as a supplier of those goods or services posts a proposal to sell such goods or services.” (emphasis added). Thus, *Webber* neither teaches nor suggests “processing the order request into multiple processed order requests, selecting fulfillment partners for each of the processed order requests, and for each of the processed order requests, and transmitting the processed order request to the ORMS of the selected fulfillment partner” as required by amended claim 1

Also in contrast to the present invention of claim 9, *Webber* neither teaches nor suggests “wherein the order request servicing system is a hub in an order servicing organization and the ORMS of a first of the fulfillment partners comprises a spoke in the order servicing organization and further comprises another order request servicing system” as recited in dependent claim 9.

Applicants also submit that independent claims 14, 20, and 21 are allowable for reasons similar to those related to amended claim 1.

In further contrast to the present invention of claim 18, *Webber* neither teaches nor suggests “wherein the first order request servicing system is a hub in the order servicing system, the order servicing organization system further comprising N order request servicing systems which form order servicing system spokes from the first order request servicing system, each of the N order request servicing systems having an interface to receive a processed order request from the first order request servicing system, having a memory to store business relationship information, wherein N is a positive integer” as recited in dependent claim 18.

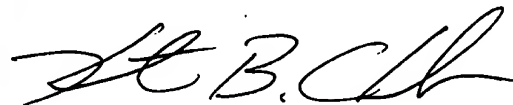
Applicants respectfully submit that the dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend. For at least the above reasons, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.
EV092085866US

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Claims

1. (ONCE AMENDED) A transaction processing method utilizing an order request servicing system for routing order requests to [one or more] multiple order request management systems (“ORMSs”) of fulfillment partners and integrating respective ORMS data from ORMSs of each fulfillment partner, the method comprising:

receiving an order request;

processing the order request into multiple processed order requests;

selecting [at least one ORMS from the plurality of ORMSs based on the order request]

fulfillment partners for each of the processed order requests;

[if only one ORMS is selected:

processing the order request to generate a processed order request;

transmitting the processed order request to the selected ORMS;

receiving ORMS data associated with the transmitted processed order request

from the selected ORMS; and

processing the ORMS data to generate first processed ORMS data;

and

if a plurality of ORMSs are selected:

processing the order request to generate a plurality of processed order requests;]

for each of the processed order requests, transmitting the processed order request to [one

of] the [selected ORMSs] ORMS of the selected fulfillment partner;

receiving from each of the ORMSs of the selected fulfillment partners [respective ORMS

data from each of the selected ORMSs, wherein] ORMS data [from each of the

selected ORMSs is] associated with the processed order request transmitted to

[each selected] the ORMS of the fulfillment partners; and

[processing] integrating the received [plurality of] ORMS data [to generate second

processed ORMS data] from the ORMSs of the fulfillment partners.

2. (NO CHANGE) A system for performing the method of claim 1.

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein the order request includes placement of an order for one or more items, each item being selected from a group consisting of a good or a service.

5. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein the order request includes multiple ordered items and processing the order request into multiple processed order requests further comprises:

splitting the order request into the multiple processed order requests wherein each processed order request includes at least one of the items.

6. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein the order request includes multiple ordered items for a client and selecting fulfillment partners for each of the processed order requests further comprises:

using electronically stored routing rules to select a fulfillment partner from business relationships of the client to provide each item ordered.

7. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein the order request includes multiple ordered items, the method further comprising:

generating a fulfillment plan which pairs each item in the order with a selected fulfillment partner.

8. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein the order request is a request to view information related to orders including ORMS catalog information.

9. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein the order request servicing system is a hub in an order servicing organization and the ORMS of a first of the fulfillment partners comprises a spoke in the order servicing organization and further comprises another order request servicing system, the method further comprising using the order request servicing system of the first fulfillment partner to:

- (a) process the processed order request of the first fulfillment partner into multiple processed order requests;
- (b) select fulfillment partners for each of the processed order requests in (a);
- (c) for each of the processed order requests in (a), transmitting the processed order request to the ORMS of the selected fulfillment partner in (b);
- (d) receive from each of the ORMSs of the fulfillment partners in (c) ORMS data associated with the processed order request transmitted to the ORMS of the fulfillment partners in (c); and
- (e) integrate the received ORMS data from the ORMSs of the fulfillment partners in (d).

10. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein:

receiving an order request includes receiving the order request through a gateway, each gateway being selected from a group consisting of the following:

- an electronic data interchange (EDI) gateway; and
- an extensible markup language (XML) gateway;

transmitting each processed order request to one of the selected ORMSs includes using a communication link to the selected ORMS;

receiving respective ORMS data from each of the selected fulfillment partners includes receiving respective ORMS data via the communication link; and

the communication link is selected from a group consisting of the following:

- the Internet;
- one or more direct communication links;
- a satellite network;
- a cellular network; and
- a local data transport system.

11. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein:
receiving respective ORMS data from each of the selected ORMSs includes at least one
of the following:
receiving respective ORMS data from each of the selected fulfillment partners
individually; and
receiving respective ORMS data from each of the selected fulfillment partners in
a batch in response to a transaction transmitted from the order servicing
system to each of the ORMSs of the selected fulfillment partners.
12. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving an order request includes
receiving the order request from a client system.
13. (NEW) The method of claim 12 wherein the client system includes at least one of
the following:
a computer system with a client interface that is used by customers to place order
requests;
the order request servicing system recursively calling itself; and
a first order request servicing system transmitting one or more processed order requests
to an ORMS, the ORMS including a second order request servicing system.
14. (NEW) An order servicing organization system for routing order requests to
multiple order request management systems ("ORMSs") of fulfillment partners and integrating
respective ORMS data from ORMSs of each fulfillment partner, the order servicing organization
system comprising:
a first order request servicing system having an interface to receive an order request,
having a memory to store business relationship information relating a client and
the fulfillment parties, and having a processing engine to:
process the order request into multiple processed order requests;
select fulfillment partners for each of the processed order requests using the business
relationship information;

for each of the processed order requests, transmit the processed order request to the ORMS of the selected fulfillment partner;
receive from each of the ORMSs of the selected fulfillment partners ORMS data associated with the processed order request transmitted to the ORMS of the fulfillment partners; and
integrate the received ORMS data from the ORMSs of the fulfillment partners.

15. (NEW) The order servicing organization system of claim 14 wherein the order request includes multiple ordered items for a client, and the first order request servicing system further comprises:

routing objects to access the business relationship information and select the fulfillment partners for each of the processed order requests.

16. (NEW) The order servicing organization system of claim 14 further comprising:
a client system having a client interface; and
a communication link between the client system and the first order request servicing system.

17. (NEW) The order servicing organization system of claim 16 wherein the client interface is selected from a group comprising a kiosk, a web storefront, and an Internet terminal.

18. (NEW) The order servicing organization system of claim 16 wherein the first order request servicing system is a hub in the order servicing system, the order servicing organization system further comprising:

N order request servicing systems which form order servicing system spokes from the first order request servicing system, each of the N order request servicing systems having an interface to receive a processed order request from the first order request servicing system, having a memory to store business relationship information, wherein N is a positive integer, the N order request servicing systems each further having a processing engine to:

- (a) process the processed order request into multiple processed order requests;
- (b) select fulfillment partners for each of the processed order requests in (a);

- (c) for each of the processed order requests in (a), transmitting the processed order request to the ORMS of the selected fulfillment partner in (b);
- (d) receive from each of the ORMSs of the fulfillment partners in (c) ORMS data associated with the processed order request transmitted to the ORMS of the fulfillment partners in (c); and
- (e) integrate the received ORMS data from the ORMSs of the fulfillment partners in (d).

19. (NEW) The order servicing organization system of claim 16 wherein the order request includes an order for one or more items, each item being selected from a group consisting of a good or a service.

20. (NEW) A transaction processing system having an order request servicing system for routing order requests to multiple order request management systems ("ORMSs") of fulfillment partners and integrating respective ORMS data from ORMSs of each fulfillment partner, the transaction processing system comprising:

- means for receiving an order request;
- means for processing the order request into multiple processed order requests;
- means for selecting fulfillment partners for each of the processed order requests;
- means for transmitting the processed order request to the ORMS of the selected fulfillment partner;
- means for receiving from each of the ORMSs of the selected fulfillment partners ORMS data associated with the processed order request transmitted to the ORMS of the fulfillment partners; and
- means for integrating the received ORMS data from the ORMSs of the fulfillment partners.

21. (NEW) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for utilizing an order request servicing system for routing order requests to multiple order request management systems ("ORMSs") of fulfillment partners and integrating respective ORMS data from ORMSs of each fulfillment partner, the method comprising:

- receiving an order request;

processing the order request into multiple processed order requests;
selecting fulfillment partners for each of the processed order requests;
for each of the processed order requests, transmitting the processed order request to the
 ORMS of the selected fulfillment partner;
receiving from each of the ORMSs of the selected fulfillment partners ORMS data
 associated with the processed order request transmitted to the ORMS of the
 fulfillment partners; and
integrating the received ORMS data from the ORMSs of the fulfillment partners.

SUBMISSION OF SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION – (MARKED-UP VERSION)

process other types of responses from order request management systems 120 in addition to provider order statuses. From step 647, order request servicing system 110 proceeds to step 660. If the information received is not a valid response, order request servicing system proceeds to step 655 to perform error handling and then proceeds to step 660.

(84) Returning to step 640, if the response is a provider order status, in step 642 the order request servicing system 110 analyzes the provider order status and creates the necessary order request management system data transactions to correspond to the [order] request response. For instance, the order request servicing system 110 may determine that it is desirable to order request provider order statuses for each provider order related to the order to provide an updated order status to the client system 105. Step 642 will be discussed in more detail below. Upon completing step 642, the order request servicing system 110 proceeds to step 660.

(85) In step 655, order request servicing system 110 has received information that is not a valid order request or response. Order request servicing system 110 performs error handling and then proceeds to step 660.

(86) From steps 634, 637, 642, and 647, the order request servicing system 110 proceeds to step 660. In step 660, the order request servicing system 110 has completed processing of the Analyze Order [request] Request/Response and Create Necessary Transactions module 520 and continues to module 530 of Fig. 5 to transmit the created processed order request transactions to the corresponding order request management systems 120. Order request servicing system 110 may also continue to module 560 to transmit processed order request management system data transactions to other systems 202.

(87) Fig. 7 shows a flowchart of the operation of the Analyze Order step 622 of Fig. 6. In step 710, the order request servicing system 110 verifies the client's credentials to ensure that the client has proper authority to order items using the order request servicing system 110. In the embodiment of the order request servicing system 110 shown in Figs. 3 and 4, order service 320 calls the user management system 310 to verify the client's

credentials. In step 712, the order service 320 creates one or more records to represent the order 410 in order database 322. In step 714, the order service 320 order requests relationship information for the client from user management system 310. The relationship information is used to select the fulfillment partners to provide the items in the client's order. In step 716, the routing object 324 selects providers for each item ordered by the client from the relationships for the client retrieved in step 714.

(88) In step 718, the routing object 324 generates a fulfillment plan 430 for the order 410, with each item of the order related to a provider fulfillment partner. In step 720, order service 320 creates processed order request transactions in the form of a provider order 440 for each order request management system 120 to fulfill one or more items of the order. Each provider order 440 must correspond to the order format required by the corresponding provider's order request management system 120. A routing object 324 uses an Order request Provider Object 326 to translate data from the order request servicing system 110 format to the selected order request management system 120 format. The Order request Provider Object 326 transmits the provider order 410 to the corresponding provider's order request management system 120.

(89) In step 722, the order request servicing system 110 determines whether other system 202 notification transactions are needed in addition to the provider order. If other system 202 notification transactions are not needed in step 722, the order request servicing system 110 proceeds to step 730 to continue processing. If other system 202 notification transactions are needed, order request servicing system 110 proceeds to step 724 to create order request management system data [the] notification transactions for the corresponding other systems 202. For example, billing information might be provided to a financial system for invoicing immediately upon generating the fulfillment plan. In the object-oriented embodiment described above, notification objects are created. Order request servicing system 110 then proceeds to step 730, which completes processing of step 622, Analyze Order and Create Necessary Transactions. The order request servicing system 110 has also completed module 520, [Analyze Order request/Response] Analyze Order Request/Response and Create Necessary Transactions. Order request servicing

system 110 may then use module 550 of Fig. 5 to transmit the created transactions to the client systems 105. Order request servicing system may use module 560 to transmit the created transactions to the other systems 202.

(90) Fig. 8 shows a flowchart of the operation of the [Analyze Order request/Response] Analyze Order Request/Response for Order Status 632 module. The order request servicing system 110 may [order] request updated provider order status information from the order request management systems 120 in real-time (allowing for transmission and processing delays). For example, a real-time query might be issued in response to a customer order request for an order status. Each order request management system 120 will provide a provider order status in response to [a order] an order request for order status. The order request servicing system 110 determines an overall order status from the related provider order statuses, which it conveys to the order requesting client system 105, which in turn conveys the order status to the customer.

(91) The order request servicing system 110 may also receive provider order statuses from its own batch order request for order status. The order request servicing system 110 determines the effect of the updated provider order statuses on the related order statuses. The order request servicing system 110 notifies the client system 105 of changes in order status but may create no transactions if the order status has not changed. In response to a notification transaction, the client system 105 notifies the customer.

(92) The customer provides an order number in the order request for order status. In step 810, order service 320 verifies the order number supplied. In step 820, the order service 320 retrieves the provider order 440 records from order database 322 that are associated with the order number. In step 830, order service 320 prepares [a] processed order request transaction in the form of [a order] an order request for provider order status to each provider's order request management system 120.

(93) In step 840, the order request servicing system 110 determines whether other system 202 notification transactions are needed in addition to the order requests for provider order statuses. If other system 202 notification transactions are not needed in

step 840, the order request servicing system 110 proceeds to step 860 to exit the analysis of the order request for order status and return to module 530 of Fig. 5, Transmit Transactions to Order request management systems. If other system 202 notification transactions are needed, order request servicing system 110 proceeds to step 850 to create the order request management system data notification transactions for the corresponding other systems 202. Order request servicing system 110 then proceeds to step 860, which completes step 632, [Analyze Order request/Response] Analyze Order Request/Response for Order Status and Create Necessary Transactions. The order request servicing system 110 has also completed module 520, the [Analyze Order request/Response] Analyze Order Request/Response and Create Necessary Transactions, and uses module 550 of Fig. 5 to transmit the created processed order request management system data transactions to the order request management systems 120 and other systems 202. A response to the order request will be provided by the Analyze Provider Order Status 642 step.

(94) Fig. 9 shows a flowchart of the Analyze Provider Order Status 642 step. The order request servicing system 110 has received a response in the form of a provider order status from an order request management system 120. A provider order status includes a response to the following types of order requests: [a order] an order request for order status from a customer, and a batch order request to update order status which is run periodically.

(95) In step 910, the order request servicing system 110 retrieves from order database 322 the provider orders for which a provider order status has been received, in addition to all other provider order records for the related order. Order request servicing system 110 then proceeds to step 920 to update the corresponding provider order records with the provider order status received. Order request servicing system 110 then proceeds to step 930 to determine the order status for the order from the provider order records associated with the order. The provider order statuses for the provider orders making up the order are integrated to provide an overall order status.

(96) In step 940, order request servicing system 110 determines whether the order has an outstanding order request for order status. If the order has an outstanding ~~a~~-order request for order status, order request servicing system 110 proceeds to step 950. If the order does not have an outstanding [a] order request for an order status, order request servicing system 110 proceeds to step 942.

(97) In step 942, no order request for an order status is outstanding. If there is no change in order status, order request servicing system 110 does not notify the client of the receipt of the updated provider order status because the overall order status is unaffected. Rather, order request servicing system 110 proceeds to step 940 to determine if other system 202 notification transactions are needed.

(98) In step 942, if there has been a change in order status, order request servicing system 110 proceeds to step 960.

(99) Returning to step 940, if order request servicing system 110 has determined that [a order] an order request for order status is outstanding, order request servicing system 110 proceeds to step 950. In step 950, order request servicing system 110 determines whether all provider order statuses for the order have been received. If all provider order statuses for the order have not been received, the order request servicing system 110 proceeds to step 970 to wait for other provider order statuses to arrive. If all provider order statuses for the order have been received, the order request servicing system 110 proceeds to step 960.

(100) In step 960, either [a order] an order request for order status was outstanding and all provider order status responses have been received, or an order request management system 120 has sent an updated provider order status that affects an overall order status. In step 960, the order request servicing system 110 creates [a] an order request management system data notification transaction containing the order status to be sent to the client system 105.

(101) In step 970, the order request servicing system 110 determines whether other system 202 notification transactions are needed in addition to the notification of the client

system 105 of a changed or updated order status. If other system 202 notification transactions are needed, order request servicing system 110 proceeds to step 980 to create the notification transactions for the corresponding other systems 202. If other system 202 notification transactions are not needed in step 970, the order request servicing system 110 proceeds to step 990 to complete the analysis of the order request for order status.

(102) In step 990, the order request servicing system 110 has completed step 642, the Analyze Provider Order Status step. The order request servicing system 110 has also completed module 520, the [Analyze Order request/Response] Analyze Order Request/Response and Create Necessary Transactions, and uses module 550 of Fig. 5, Send Transactions to Client System, to transmit the order status to the client systems 105.

(103) While the invention has been described with respect to the embodiments and variations set forth above, these embodiments and variations are illustrative and the invention is not to be considered limited in scope to these embodiments and variations. For example, in another embodiment, the order request servicing system may be implemented in a software environment that does not use the object-oriented paradigm. Accordingly, various other embodiments and modifications and improvements not described herein may be within the spirit and scope of the present invention.